

RUBEN GALLEGO
3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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April 24, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

I write today to express my deep concern over rising gasoline prices across Arizona. High prices at the pump are disproportionately impacting Arizona's families, businesses, and communities.

Over the past month, gas prices in Arizona have increased dramatically. According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), the average gallon of Regular gasoline has increased from \$4.17 a gallon to \$4.69. In Maricopa County, the increase is even more dramatic – gas now stands at \$5.02 on average. These prices compared to the national average of \$3.67 illustrate how rising gas prices is an Arizona-specific issue.

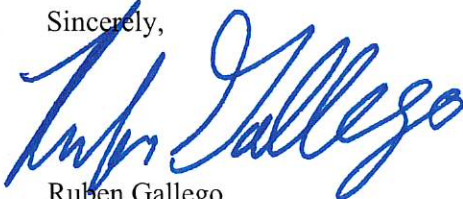
My office is also hearing reports that many stations are out of Regular gasoline, forcing them to fill up with Mid-Grade or Premium gasoline. This supply issue is compounding the impacts of price increases. The averages for Mid-Grade and Premium state-wide are \$5.02 and \$5.29, respectively. In the City of Phoenix proper, they are \$5.33 and \$5.60 per gallon. Those prices are simply unaffordable for many families and businesses.

As you know, refineries in other parts of the country, particularly Texas and California, supply gasoline to Arizona. There may be a few factors at play with Arizona's runaway prices, including required maintenance at the refineries and the transition to "summer" gasoline used to prevent horrible smog from blanketing the Valley during the hotter months. However, what is clear is that one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country should not be out of Regular gasoline. The normal supply and demand structure is not working how it should. I request you use everything in your authority to address the gasoline issues affecting Arizonans, including releases from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, limitations on crude oil exports, and resource surges to refineries and distribution centers in the Southwest that service Arizona.

In addition, there are two pipelines that supply the majority of gasoline to Arizona, one each from California and Texas. If anything were to happen to these supply sources, what is now an affordability and supply issue could become a national security issue. I request you provide all available resources to securing and protecting these supply sources.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN